



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)  
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

## VP External's Report to Legislative Council

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February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Personal

Would like to take a moment to apologize to the Legislative Council for the lack of cat costume thus far; I can assure you that I will endeavor to obtain such costume and wear it by the end of my term. Thank-you to the constituents who brought this up at the general assembly.

On another note – I'll be working over reading week and will have a lot of extra time, so if you have anything you'd like to work together on, this week would be a really great time.

### External Affairs

AVEQ

- Last congress February 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at UQTR
- Discussed membership and affiliations
  - At least three organizations will be running questions this semester (AGE UQTR, AGEUQAR, and SSMU)
    - If all vote yes, AVEQ would have nearly 80,000 members
  - Some organizations still might run a question either this semester or next (PGSS, GSA, MCSS)
    - If all vote yes, AVEQ would have nearly 95,000 members
  - Some organizations will likely run a question next fall (MAGE UQAC, ADEESE, AELIES, AEETS)
    - If all vote yes, AVEQ would have nearly 125,000 members
- Voted on positions that were consensual for the group in order to create a “positions book” and clarify the associations stance to various socio-political issues
  - Tuition fees and student conditions
    - Tuition and FIO's
    - Financial aid
    - International and out-of-province students
    - Unpaid internships
    - Family studies balance
    - Research
    - Austerity and the funding of education
  - Environment and sustainability
  - Anti-oppression
    - Indigenous peoples
    - Feminism
  - Linguistic affairs
  - Regional realities
- Positions will be consolidated into a single book and available online very soon!

ASSÉ



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- Hosting a feminist training camp the weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> in Quebec City, please contact me if you would like to go! People of all genders are welcome.

#### International students

- Recent reports have indicated that the provincial government may make more cuts to university funding, but that universities will be allowed to make up the difference by charging international students an additional 25% (around \$3000-\$4000 per year for international students)
- Spoke to Olivier Marcil (VP External of McGill) who has stated that nothing is confirmed yet. I asked him to release a public statement indicating that McGill will not raise international tuition, even if allowed by the government, similar to what the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi did, but so far no action has been taken.

### Community Affairs

#### Milton Parc Community

- Met with Projet Montreal to discuss the garbage survey, our representative will discuss with the borough as to what he can do further
- Planning CARE agreement signing ceremony with the Milton Parc Citizens Committee, will update everyone when a date is chosen!
- Starting to organize street teams for St. Patricks Day, if anyone is interested in helping us reduce harm in the neighborhood on St. Patricks, please let me know! P.S. You will get snacks and love from me.
  - Also doing St. Patties harm reduction awareness campaign: Leprechauns are great community members! Be a Leprechaun!
- I promise I will eventually get the Milton-Parc awareness campaign off the ground – hopefully reading week will be more quiet and I'll be able to get projects like these done!

### Campaigns

#### McGill Against Austerity

- Working on “Beyond McGill” series: <http://www.beyondmcgill.com/>
- Workshop on climate justice and the student movement this week!
- Currently doing departmental outreach to talk about how austerity specifically affects certain departments

#### Divest McGill

- Organized the Divest McGill retreat last weekend; planned strategy leading up to the BoG decision
- Participated in rally outside of the Ban Ki-Moon event – lots of positive feedback
  - FYI – It totally wasn't divest who pulled the fire alarm. We were really happy to see that McGill invited a pro-divestment speaker, and also happy to plan a peaceful and positive event outside of the speech!

### QPIRG



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- Social Justice Days was hugely successful! Really great turnout at all of the events. So grateful to have the opportunity to work with QPIRG
- Will focus now on debriefing and ensuring that SSMU remains an active partner for future years

### **Commission des Affaires Francophones**

- Helped with organization for the planning of a French student media conference – lots of students from francophone journals from a ton of different schools were present

### **Mention Soleil**

This week, I would like to give a big Mention Soleil to Kahli for all of your work in the general assembly and beyond! You are truly and genuinely kind and I'm so grateful that you are on the SSMU. I think that you bring really important points for discussion at council, and I've heard nothing but really wonderful things about your work on the committees you sit on. Finally, I'm so thankful for how open you are to listening and supporting everyone on the SSMU team, we really are all so lucky to have you around.

With love and solidarity,

Emily Boytinck